

**BIBLICAL MODELS OF LEADERSHIP
PART 1**

I. Basic understanding what Leadership is with in the Local Church:

A. If you are involved in any type of ministry ... behind the scenes or in the forefront you are in Leadership.

1. Leadership roles vary in functions and responsibilities

a. from the Pulpit to the Sunday School class

b. from the Praise Team to the Ushers and Greeters

d. from the Altar Ministry Team to the Sound Ministry

c. from the Pastor to the Elders to the Deacons to the Trustees

(1) there are **TWO PRIMARY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

(a) #1 each individual is personally responsible to:

(1) Col 4:17 "**Take heed** to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may **fulfill it.**"

(a) It is the responsibility of the Pastor **to help you discover and develop** your calling / ministry

(b) But: it is **not** the responsibility of the Pastor to have to convince you to fulfill your ministry

(1) Each individual is to "**Take heed**" to their ministry and fulfill it's responsibilities

(b) #2 each individual's life, walk with God and ministry is to be a biblical Model / an example for others to follow ... both in and outside of The church

(1) 1 Tim 3:15 I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God,

(a) **Def conduct:** behavior, how to live

B. Jesus did not just lead out of: POSITION

1. He is the Messiah, the Son of God

2. Rather Jesus led by **EXAMPLE** ... gave us a model to follow:

a. Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 **but made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a **bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

- (1) vs 7 “He made Himself of no reputation”
- (2) vs 7 “taking on the form of a bond servant” (developed a servants heart)
- (3) vs 8 “He humbled Himself”
- (4) vs 8 “became obedient”
 - (a) This is not the world’s example of leadership This is a Biblical Model of Leadership based upon the principles of scripture and the characteristics of The Kingdom
- b. John 14:9 “He who has seen Me has seen the Father;”
 - (1) When people looked at the life of Jesus received a revelation of God Our Heavenly Father
- 3. Jesus did not stop with telling us to obey His words / teachings Rather The Lord led by example, He was a model, He set an example:
 - a. That was the key, the secret to why the words of Jesus Christ were backed up with power & authority
 - (1) Mark 1:22 And they were **astonished at his doctrine**: for he taught them as **one that had authority**, and not as the scribes.
- 4. The same principle applies to each of us:
 - a. our words will be backed up with the power of God & authority of the Holy Spirit when:
 - (1) our life is a biblical model
 - (2) our home is a biblical model
 - (3) our leadership & ministry position is a biblical model

C. The Apostle Paul also reveals to us what it means to **model Biblical Leadership**:

- 1. Paul said: 1 Cor 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.
 - a. Paul did not lead out of his title, or position In this case: Apostle
 - b. Rather **Paul led by example** not just out of position (Apostle).... He was a **model of Christianity ... a model for leadership**
 - (1) Can you see the **biblical qualifier** for leadership in this passage?
 - (a) “**even as I also am of Christ**”
 - (b) No one was expected or required to follow Paul, until his life, walk with God, ministry portrayed an example that he was following Jesus
 - (1) It was not Paul’s gifting, anointing or title that qualified him for leadership
 - (2) Rather it was the **life he lived**
- 2. 2 Thess 3:9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an **ensample** (EXAMPLE) unto you to follow us.”
 - a. “Note because we have not the **power**”: **Def Power**/ authority
 - (1) Paul had the title, position, authority as an Apostle of God
 - (2) but he did not just lead out of his position / authority / title

b. “but to make ourselves an **ensample (example)** unto you to follow us”

(1) What empowered Paul’s leadership was the fact that he **led by example**

D. Look at **John Maxwell’s Stairs of the “Five Levels of Leadership”**

1. Go to Maxwell guide: Five Levels of Leadership

2. **step #1** ... the **lowest level of leadership / the first rung on the ladder of Leadership is to only serve out from your title / position**

a. Note: **Position** / people have to follow you because they have to

b. But as you mature in your walk with God & develop your leadership skills and begin make progress thru these five levels of leadership:

(1) the reason why people follow you changes & your impact upon the lives of people has a greater effect

(2) Look at **the highest level** of leadership ... **step #5**

(a) **PERSONHOOD**: people follow because of who you are and what you represent

(1) As we represent Jesus

(2) Also, as you represent your pastor

(3) When people see a godly example to follow

(4) When people see passion, & commitment in your life, leadership & ministry

(a) it will cause them to be willing to follow you

(b) and will stir them up to be willing to also serve in ministry

(1) Judg 5:2 "That the leaders led in Israel,

That the people volunteered,

Bless the Lord! (New American Standard Trans)

(a) Look at the blessing when people in leadership step up and lead ...

Fulfill their ministry & responsibilities & lead by example

(b) **“the people volunteered”**

(1) But when people just lead out of position

(a) failing to give an example of holiness, passion, commitment

(b) It makes it almost impossible for the Pastor to get people to volunteer & serve

3. An example of **TWO TYPES OF LEADERS**:

a. **Travel Agent Leader**: sends you to places they have never been / dwell

b. **Tour Guide Leader**: goes with you to the places they are sending you / dwell

(1) **UNLESS YOU PERSONALLY MATURE THRU THE FIVE LEVELS OF LEADERSHIPYOU WILL REMAIN A Travel Agent type leader**

(a) sending people, telling where to go, what to do,, but never take the time To model and walk with them into their destiny

4. There is nothing in the church that is more **awkward to handle** & most difficult to deal with than:
 - a. When people are placed in whatever capacity of leadership
 - (1) and then their life is no longer an example to others
 - (2) not just by a sinful lifestyle but by lack of commitment & passion
In what they are doing
 - (3) This causes a **DOUBLE STANDARD** to be set & brings compromise into
The lives & ministries of others who are serving
 - b. There is nothing more **blessed** than when Judges 5:2 is being fulfilled
“the leaders led in Israel”
 - (1) It stirs the heart of people in the congregation to volunteer & become
Involved
 - (2) & the blessings of God flow as the needs of people are being effectively
ministered to

- E. The Apostle Paul writes to the believers in the Book of Hebrews and tells them
In Chapter 13:7
 1. “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you
the word of God: **whose faith follow, considering the end of their
conversation.**”
 - a. Note: “whose **faith follow**”
 - b. Note: “**considering the end of their conversation**”
 - c. Amp Trans: Heb 13:7 “Observe attentively and consider their **manner of
living (the outcome of their well-spent lives)** and imitate their faith (their
conviction that God exists ...”)
 - (1) Basically Paul is saying don’t follow anyone merely out of the position
they hold, the title they have
 - (a) Instead First **observe attentively** / are they exhibiting faith in God
/ Also people are to **Consider their / leaders manner of living:**
 - (1) Take a moment and look at your life, walk with God & ministry and ask
our self this question:
 - (a) As people see me on stage with the praise team
 - (b) Teaching in Sunday School
 - © Greeting & ushering
 - (d) Ministering from behind the pulpit
 - (e) serving in prison or nursing home ministry
 - (f) ministering at the altar as part of the altar ministry team
 - (g) serving as a deacon, elder, trustee

- (h) as people look at my church attendance
 - (a) Do people see an **example of Jesus** in my life?
 - (1) 1 John 2:6 “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
 - (b) Do people see: a personal who is modeling **biblical leadership, Credibility & Faithfulness in my life?**
 - (1) God & Pastor can depend upon me to be there & fulfill my Responsibilities
 - (a) On your own time Study: **FIGURE 23”leadership qualities”**
 - (1) examine your heart / compare your life to the verses listed
 - (2) 1 Tim 1:12 “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me **faithful**, putting me into the ministry,
 - (a) **Def Faithful:** trustworthy
 - (1) Can God and my pastor depend upon me to show up to fulfill My responsibilities of ministry... because I am faithful?
 - (2) In listing of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit every believer / let alone Leader is to develop in their life Listed among the Fruit of The Spirit in Gal 5:22 is **Faith**
 - (a) **Def Faith:**
 - (1) **first** the word deals with our faith in God: persuasion, conviction, belief
 - (2) **secondly** the word faith deals with an attribute needed in a Christian’s life: & means faithful, trustworthy
 - (a) The word faith is not dealing with the faith to move Mountains & believing God to receive something
 - (1) It is talking about one of the fruit’s of The Holy Spirit
 - (a) that should be growing on the “tree of righteousness” / The Born Again, Spirit filled believer
 - (b) so people can look at our life and see faith, faithfulness, Trustworthy, biblical convictions and beliefs
 - © and walk up to our life & pluck that fruit from our tree and “taste and see that The Lord is good”

2. Please hear what I have to say: When the Pastor comes and prepares for a church service their focus should be on hearing from God Teaching / Preaching The Word making sure the anointing is flowing and touching the lives of the people:

a. Their focus should not have to be on:

- (1) Did the Sunday School teacher show up
 - (2) are all the members of the praise team here so we can offer God our best & Give the members of the congregation our best as we lead them into the Presence of God
 - (3) Are the greeters ministering to the saints & visitors as they come thru the Door ... being welcomed ... giving visitor packets for follow up ministry
 - (4) Does the Pastor have to play deacon before or after the church service ... or Are the deacons doing their part ?
 - (a) Is the pastor the one having to prepare the natural building ... turn on heat Air conditioning Shut off at the end of services
 - (1) or does the pastor have to give up their time for preparing the atmosphere of the spiritual building due to having to play deacon?
3. The opposite of the fruit of faith / faithfulness / trustworthy is **NEGLECT**:
- a. When Nehemiah was building the walls and gates of Jerusalem listen to the Demand & Confession he gave to those serving with him in this God given task:
 - (1) Neh 10:39 **“and we will not neglect the house of our God.”**
 - (a) We must always examine our own heart and ask ourselves
 - (1) Am I being faithful And doing what God has entrusted me to do As instructed in
 - (a) Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
 - (2) or am I being neglectful toward the House of God?
 - (a) from my attendance
 - (b) to my tithes and offering
 - © to my area of responsibility & ministry

F. Continuing: Heb 13:7 . “Remember them (Leadership) which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: **whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.** (conduct)”

1. When people consider my faith / faithfulness / conduct
 - a. Do people see **Character / Integrity** in my life?
 - (1) Paul said this of his spiritual son Timothy:

Phil 2:22 But you know his (Timothy) **proven character**, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.
 - b. Do people see **Loyalty** / in my life?
 - (1) can God & my pastor depend upon me in the tough times... let me share Something with you about loyalty: **IT IS NEVER NEEDED MORE THAN**

WHEN IN THE MIDST OF THE BATTLES OF LIFE

- (a) It is in the midst of the battles that you look for people
 - (1) you can depend on That is going to show up ... be there
With you in the midst of the battle
 - (2) someone you can trust / and turn your back to ... and not have to worry about betrayal I am talking about leadership
- c. **David's army** is a great example of leaders who had loyalty in their heart:
 - (1) 1 Chron 12:38 38 All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. 39 And
 - (a) Look at the attributes in the lives of these men who served in David's army:
 - (1) **Could keep rank**
 - (a) they knew and understood their position / rank they served in
 - (b) they understood the boundaries of authority their position / rank / ministry
 - © they understood the responsibilities of their rank / position & did their Part with faithfulness & excellence
 - (b) **A Loyal Heart**
 - (1) They bought into the vision God gave to David had for Israel
 - (2) They bought into the calling that rested upon David's life
 - (a) and they determined with loyalty ... regardless the battles they face
To help David make it happen
 - (1)) 1 Chron 12:38 **"to make David king** over all Israel; and all the rest of **Israel were of one mind to make David king..."**
 - d. After Jesus had the Pass Over meal with His disciples and Judas leaves to betray him, The Lord turns to the rest of his disciples and says the following:
 - (1) Luke 22:28 "But you are those who **have continued with Me in My trials."**
 - (a) Can Pastor say that of you? Because this is what it takes to have A great church ... filled with the life, love & power of God
 - (1) I have already qualified expecting such a commitment by sharing with Leaders must lead by example:
 - (a) But if they are living holy, giving their all, preaching the word, ..being a Biblical Model of leadership ..The Pastor ought to be able to say to you in The midst of the battles of life and ministry: ... I got your back & I am Depending upon you to watch my back....
 - (1) **Example of how Israelites fought in the midst of close battles ... three in a triangle Covering each other's back** So the other Could face who / what was in front of them with total focus ... due to The loyalty of them fighting alongside

- (1) not worrying about their going jump ship & run in tough times
- (2) not worrying about their knife going into their back as they faced their Enemies ...
 - (a) all due to they could keep rank & had a loyalty

II. Becoming a Biblical Model of a Leader requires learning to be a **TEAM PLAYER** through **discovering your spiritual gifts:**

A. Rom 12:6 -8 is an example of “**Body Ministry**” taking place through the grace / gifting God has given each of us

- 1. vs 6 “Having then **gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us**, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
 - 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
 - 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

- a. We have a deposit of God’s grace / gifting within us that is to be contribute in helping “Build the Church”
- 2. Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
 - a. Through the grace, gifts, talents, anointing that each member of the Body of Christ has been graced with The fullness of Jesus Christ can manifest and touched the lives and needs of people..
 - (1) when each members allows their life to be “**knit together**” in a local church “**every joint supplies**” ... every joint contributes in meeting a need
- 3. Learning to be a **TEAM PLAYER** through **stirring & developing your spiritual gifts** Putting them to use:
 - a. 2 Tim 1:6 “**stir** (Def rekindle / revive) up the gift of God which is in you..”
 - (1) It is each of our personal responsibility to:
 - (a) keep our spiritual gifts stirred up by
 - (1) developing a prayer & word life
 - (2) and keeping our spiritual gifts & talents active thru use
 - (b) Also to further develop our spiritual gifts & anointing
 - (1) refuse to allow your walk with God, ministry. & gifts to plateau out

B. Learn to **function in your unction**, and not offer **STRANGE FIRE**:

- 1. Lev 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his

censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not.

2 And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

a. Nadab & Abihu attempted to function in a ministry beyond their calling and sphere of authority that God had called & graced them for

(1) their offering / ministry was not accepted by God and was classified
As strange fire

b. The spiritual principle of learning to remain in the ministry & sphere of authority we have been graced for by the Holy Spirit is the lesson we are to learn from this example

(a) Then the opposite takes place: God accepts & blesses our ministry

C. **Lucifer** is also another example of strange fire. he allowed his gifting & anointing go to his head & he lost perspective of his rank, position, authority & ministry:

1. Instead of being whom God had created & called him to be ... Praise & Worship Leader before the throne of God in heaven

a. Lucifer allowed his heart to be filed with pride & wanted to be the head / God

2. In Lucifer / who became the devil due to his disobedience we discover the

“FIVE -I’S- OF SELF EXALTATION”

a. Isa 14:13 For you have said in your heart:

#1 **I** will ascend into heaven,

#2 **I** will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

#3 **I** will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of
The north

Vs 14 #4 **I** will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

#5 **I** will be like the Most High.'

(1) “I will ascend into the heaven”: **SELF PROMOTION**

(a) Prov 27:” Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger,
And not thine own lips.

(2) “I will exalt my throne”: **MINISTRY EXALTING**

(a) mistakenly thinking “my ministry is more important than any other ministry
in the church

(1) this primarily comes from having never caught the vision of the house that
God has given the pastor

(3) “I will sit on the mount of the congregation”: **POSITION HUNGRY**

(a) instead of becoming a bond servant & developing a servants heart like
Jesus Phil 2:7

(4) “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds”: **CELEBRATY MINDSET**

(a) Not a team player

(5) “I will be like the Most High”: **POWER CONFLICT**

(a) fails to understand the biblical flow of authority & anointing

III. The biblical model of leadership understands that: **LEADERS ARE BUILDERS**

A. Biblical Leaders understand that we are **building two thing at the same time:**

1. Building the **Life of the individual believer**

Building the Corporate Local Church

a. **Corporate:** Matt 16:18 Jesus said: “I will build My Church”

(1) Eph 2:21 “in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”.

2. We are **building LIVES of believers by making disciples**

a. Matt 28:19 “Go therefore and **make disciples**”

(1) **We are not called to JUST BLESS people, but also to BUILD people.**

(a) We heal & deliver people by the power of God so they are able to come alongside us to help build the church ... we are to **BUILD CHRIST IN THEM**

(1) Gal 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

3. Much of the church has lost sight of the Apostolic Blue Print for building

Both the Corporate Church and the Life of the believer:

a. By settling for believers just attending a church service

b. and failing to lay the foundation of Jesus Christ in their life:

c. The Apostle Paul did not just settle for:

(1) getting believers to just attend church

(2) But also that so they Christ like

(a) and also contribute in building the Corporate Church through becoming involved in the work of the ministry

B. It is important that we **UNDERSTAND HOW GOD BUILDS** His Church, A Leader & the life of a believer:

Jer 1:10 See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms,

To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant."

1. Before God begins to build the first thing He does is:

a. **ROOT OUT**: the sin in our life

(1) Thru the Power of the **Blood of Jesus Christ**

b. **PULL DOWN**: the demonic strongholds in our life

(1) Thru the Authority of the **Word of God** in our lives

(a) John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

c. **DESTOYS**: the works of the devil that hinder us

(1) Thru the anointing of the Holy Spirit

(a) Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

(b) Isa 10:27 And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.

d. **Build**: When God builds in our life, He builds upon a foundation:

(1) 1 Cor 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

(a) The Foundation God builds upon in our life is Jesus Christ

(1) we must be rooted & grounded in The Lord

(2) we are told in 1 Cor 3:10 “let each one **take heed how he builds on it.**

(a) or in others words make sure everything is built upon Jesus

(1) your relationships, your priorities, finances, family, ministry, etc

(b) make sure are beliefs are lined up with the truth of God’s Word

e. **Plant**:

(1) Everything God does in our lives & ministry starts with a seed:

(a) seed of promise from the word, prophecy, dream, vision, desire

(2) no one walks into the fullness of God’s plan & purpose overnight

(3) it is a growing process:

(a) Mark 4:28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.

C. As seen in the **ministry of Nehemiah**, if we fail to allow the “rubbish” to be Removed from our life ... it will hinder what God is trying to build:

1. Neh 4:10 **here is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.**

a. When **King Hezekiah** was restoring the Temple, he first had to sanctify, or clean the rubbish out from the Temple in order for restoration to take place:

(1) 2 Chron 29:5 and said to them: "Hear me, Levites! Now **sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house** of the Lord God of your fathers, and **carry out the rubbish from the holy place.**

(a) King Hezekiah is a biblical model of a Leader who assumed the following responsibilities & it is a prophetic picture of :

(1) **Sanctify the House**: Local Church

(2) **Sanctify the Holy Place**: the heart of the Leader & Believer

(b) This sanctification takes place by: “**carry out the rubbish**”

- (1) Rubbish is a type and shadow of sin, flesh, carnality
- 2. God will not be able to fully build in our life without first removing the rubbish
 - a. This is the work the Holy Spirit desires to work in every Leader
 - b. Then God wants to use every Leader in The Church, as He did Hezekiah and help people remove the rubbish from their lives
 - (1) so the presence & glory of God may dwell & manifest in the church & in the lives of God's people

D. We can look at the leadership of Nehemiah and those who served under his Leadership and discover that they had a **MINDSET TO BUILD**:

1. **Nehemiah's mindset:**

- a. Neh 2:17 "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach
 - (1) A leader does not just have a mindset to build when everything is going well
 - (a) look at the conditions Nehemiah faced:
 - (1) everything was in **distress Def:** calamity, bad, wretched, misery
 - (2) But look at the leadership in Nehemiah: "**let us build the wall**"
 - (a) that is what determines if you are a leader, or just a follower

2. **The People's mindset**

- a. Neh 2:18 "So they said, "**Let us rise up and build.**" Then they **set their hands to this good work.**
 - (1) The people did not hold meetings and just talk about what needed to be done
 - (a) "then they **set (Def strengthened)** their hands to this good work

E. In order to develop a MINDSET TO BUILD each individual believer must **mature in the area of vision**:

- 1. A Leader does not stop with just having a personal vision for their life
 - a. Part of a believer becoming spiritually mature is they must also catch & become a part of the CORPORATE VISION that the Pastor casts for the Local Church
 - (1) This type of mindset is not all about self and focused on me
 - (2) the focus is shifted to "every joint supplieth" (Eph 4:16) in fulfilling the Corporate Vision
 - b. This in turn results in two things:
 - (1) Fulfillment of your Personal Vision
 - (2) Fulfillment of the Corporate Vision
- 2. **Personal Vision**:
 - a. is a revelation of the will of God for your life ... involves things like:

(1) your career

(2) will you remain single or marry, etc.

b. revelation of the Gifts & talents God has given you

c. revelation of your ministry, calling

3. **Corporate Vision:**

a. revelation of the plan and purpose of God for a local church, which is given to the man / woman of God in the House who serves as the Presiding / Chief Elder (Five Fold Ministry Gift)

b. Corporate Vision involves the entire congregation / members of the Body of Christ The Lord has set within a local church

(1) These “Members in Particular” (1 Cor 12:27) will take their vision, gifts, talents and contribute in fulfilling the Corporate Vision by becoming actively involved in the “work of the ministry” (Eph 4:12)

IV. SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP:

A. **S**

1. **Service:** there is no such thing as success without service

B. **U**

1. **Understanding:** real success is not measured by how much we own, rather Real success is always internal: have we become the man / woman of God that The Lord has called us to be?

C. **C**

1. **Character:** a persons best test of character is revealed in how he / she has treated people around him & Quality of conduct

D. **C**

1. **Compassion:** do we love people more than things?

E. **E**

1. **Excellence:** is not being the best but being your best

F. **S**

1. **Significance:** comes by giving ourselves to something greater than us and That will outlast us

G. **S**

1. **SACRIFICE:** Many people spend all of their time “looking for something worth living for. It would be better if we found something worth dying for.

Note: taken from Ministry Today magazine: Redefining Success

V. You cannot be a successful leader if you are not willing to **make sacrifices**

Leadership & ministry is **not convenient**

Leadership and ministry is **not for the faint hearted**

A. Once involved in leadership you will encounter another level of **spiritual warfare** that you have not experienced in the past:

1. In the Book of Nehemiah we see an example of laboring in ministry and at the same time ready for battle:

Neh 4:17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with **one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.**

a. In one hand you hold the responsibilities as a leader

b. In the other hand on the Sword of The Word of God, prepared for spiritual warfare

VI. BIBLICAL ORDER OF CUMMUNICATION IN LEADERSHIP:

A. Acts 15:6 Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.

7 And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

8 So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us,

9 and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."

12 Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.

13 And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me:

14 Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.

15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

16 'After! this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up;

17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the Lord who does all these things.'

18 "Known to God from eternity are all His works.

19 Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,

20 but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.

- A. The early Church was dealing with the issues of some of the Jewish leaders were Demanding that the gentile believers observe certain practices of the Law such as circumcision being necessary in order to be saved (vs 1)
1. As Paul, Barnabas, Peter shared what they seen God do and also shared prophetic scriptures regarding to ministry to the gentiles:
 - a. The Leader of this Jerusalem stood up and accessed all that was said
 - (1) weighed it in comparison to what the Word of God Teaches
 - (2) and in light of how the Holy Spirit was moving:
 - b. Acts 15:13 “And after they had become silent, **James** answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me:”
 - (1) James was the leader of the church in Jerusalem, the chief apostle of the Jerusalem counsel
 - (a) after he heard the counsel of others
 - (b) in vs 14-20 James lays out the plan of God
 2. This is how local churches are to operate in their flow of communication according to the Biblical Model seen in the Book of Acts:
 - a. What ever terminology you use, whatever position you may hold:
 - (1) Elders, committee, trustees, Department head, deacons,
 - (2) whatever phase of ministry or position of leadership you may be active in Acts 15 is the Biblical Model of Communication for leadership decisions Within the local church
- B. “James” / your Pastor is to consider the counsel, suggestion etc....
1. and then see if it **lines it up with three things**:
 - a. **the word of God**
 - b. **the leading / timing / season they are in accordance with the Holy Spirit**
 - c. **and the pattern / vision / dream that God has personally given them for building that particular local church**
 - (d) **and then the Pastor gives the direction for the church**
 2. This is how you and your pastor are to communicate with each other in regards to your arena of ministry and responsibility within the church & your ministry that flows from the local church to outside of the church
 - a. share your heart / vision / idea , etc

- b. and if needed the Pastor will get together with the Elders ...
- c. If need the Pastor will get together with the Apostle
- d. Then, like James in the book of Acts the pastor will set the course of action

VII. Motive & Reward.

- A. Heb 6:10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
 - 1. Unless we develop a **Biblical Motive** for being in leadership we will become discouraged and overwhelmed along the way
 - 2. we must develop an “**ETERNAL MOTIVE**” for being involved in leadership
 - a. remember why you are doing this: **for the Lord**
 - b. remember that God sees God will not forget our **Labor** of **LOVE**
 - (1) Note: Leadership / Ministry is a **LABOR**: Def work
 - (2) Note: This “Labor” is to be done in **Love**: Def Agape (the God kind of Love)
 - (a) This means we must:
 - (1) Love God
 - (2) Love People
 - (3) Love what we are doing for The Lord
 - c. remember our reward for being faithful is found in eternity
 - (1) Matt 25:21 “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

VIII. In closing I want to share one more scripture with you Which is also the Heart Of each Pastor here:

- A. 1 Thess 1:2 “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,
 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love,
 and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

- 1. Leadership / Ministry is always a “**WORK OF FAITH**”
 - a. Because Faith is not limited to what we presently see
 - (1) Faith enables us to see:
 - (a) where we are headed
 - (b) what we are trying to build ...be it a persons life or a ministry within the church

© Faith enables us to see beyond issues, problems & needs

(1) because Leaders understand that they have been called & anointed to help overcome & bring solutions

(a) 2 Cor 4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2. As already stated Leadership / Ministry is to be a **Labor of Love**

a. Have you checked your heart?

3. **“We give thanks to God always for you”**

a. Each of your pastors have this heart toward you They are thankful for you help

4. **“Making mention of you in our prayers”**

a. Your Pastors pray for you

C. Close for LUNCH: Pray Grace over food

1. After lunch our Pastor's are going to come & for about ten minutes they will share their vision for 2015

a. and also share with you where they need your help